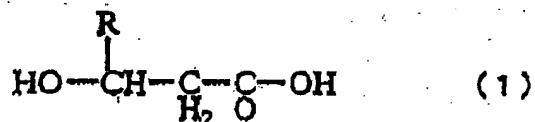


**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

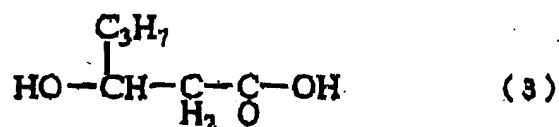
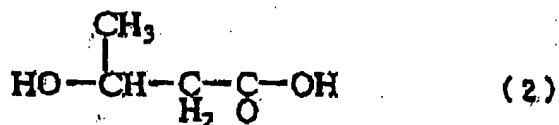
Please amend the claims as shown below. The pending claims are as follows.

1. (Currently amended) A transformant wherein at least one gene expression cassette, comprising a polyester synthesis-associated enzyme gene, a promoter and a terminator, has been introduced into a yeast which belongs to any of the genera *Candida*, *Hansenula*, *Kluyveromyces*, *Phaffia*, *Pichia*, *Schizosaccharomyces*, *Schwanniomyces*, *Trichosporon*, and *Yarrowia*.
2. (Previously presented) The transformant according to Claim 1 wherein a polyester which is obtained using said gene expression cassette is a copolymer resulting from the copolymerization of 3-hydroxyalkanoic acids of the following general formula (1);



in the formula, R represents an alkyl group.

3. (Previously presented) The transformant according to Claim 1 wherein a polyester which is obtained using said gene expression cassette is a copolyester resulting from the copolymerization of 3-hydroxybutyric acid of the following formula (2) and 3-hydroxyhexanoic acid of the following formula (3);



4. (Canceled)
5. (Previously presented) The transformant according to Claim 1  
wherein the yeast is *Yarrowia lipolytica*.
6. (Canceled)
7. (Previously presented) The transformant according to Claim 1  
wherein said promoter and said terminator function in the yeast.
8. (Previously presented) The transformant according to Claim 7  
wherein the promoter and terminator are isolated from *Yarrowia lipolytica*.
9. (Currently amended) The transformant according to Claim 7 A transformant  
wherein at least one gene expression cassette, comprising a polyester synthesis-associated  
enzyme gene, a promoter and a terminator, has been introduced into a yeast which belongs to any  
of the genera *Candida*, *Hansenula*, *Kluyveromyces*, *Phaffia*, *Pichia*, *Schizosaccharomyces*,  
*Schwanniomyces*, *Trichosporon*, and *Yarrowia*, and  
wherein the promoter is isolated from *Yarrowia lipolytica* ALK3 gene encoding an n-  
alkane-inducible cytochrome P450.
10. (Currently amended) The transformant according to Claim 7  
wherein the terminator is isolated from *Yarrowia lipolytica* XPR2 gene encoding an  
alkaline extracellular protease.
11. (Previously presented) The transformant according to Claim 7  
wherein the promoter and terminator are isolated from *Candida maltosa*.
12. (Currently amended) The transformant according to Claim 7 A transformant  
wherein at least one gene expression cassette, comprising a polyester synthesis-associated  
enzyme gene, a promoter and a terminator, has been introduced into a yeast which belongs to any

of the genera *Candida*, *Hansenula*, *Kluyveromyces*, *Phaffia*, *Pichia*, *Schizosaccharomyces*, *Schwanniomyces*, *Trichosporon*, and *Yarrowia*, and

wherein the promoter is isolated from *Candida maltosa* ALK1 gene encoding an n-alkane-inducible cytochrome P450.

13. (Currently amended) The transformant according to Claim 7 A transformant wherein at least one gene expression cassette, comprising a polyester synthesis-associated enzyme gene, a promoter and a terminator, has been introduced into a yeast which belongs to any of the genera *Candida*, *Hansenula*, *Kluyveromyces*, *Phaffia*, *Pichia*, *Schizosaccharomyces*, *Schwanniomyces*, *Trichosporon*, and *Yarrowia*, and

wherein the terminator is isolated from *Candida maltosa* ALK1 gene encoding an n-alkane-inducible cytochrome P450.

14. (Previously presented) The transformant according to Claim 1  
wherein the polyester synthesis-associated enzyme gene is isolated from *Aeromonas caviae*.

15. (Currently amended) The transformant according to Claim 1  
wherein the polyester synthesis-associated enzyme gene comprises a polyhydroxyalkanoate synthase gene isolated from *Aeromonas caviae* or the polyhydroxyalkanoate synthase gene and a (R)-specific enoyl CoA hydratase gene.

16. (Currently amended) The transformant according to Claim 15  
wherein said polyhydroxyalkanoate synthase gene has the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:3  
and the (R)-specific enoyl CoA hydratase gene has the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:4.

17. (Previously presented) A method of producing a polyester using the transformant according to Claim 1  
which comprises growing said transformant and harvesting a polyester from the

resulting culture.

18. (Currently amended) An isolated polyester synthesis-associated enzyme gene wherein at least one codon CTG is replaced with codon TTA, TTG, CTT, CTC or CTA, and said gene ~~functions~~ expresses its function in a yeast which translates ~~the~~ the codon CTG into serine.

19. (Previously presented) The polyester synthesis-associated enzyme gene according to Claim 18 which codes for an enzyme isolated from a bacterium.

20. (Original) The polyester synthesis-associated enzyme gene according to Claim 19 wherein said bacterium is *Aeromonas caviae*.

21. (Previously presented) The polyester synthesis-associated enzyme gene according to Claim 20 wherein the enzyme gene isolated from *Aeromonas caviae* is a polyhydroxyalkanoate synthase gene or a (R)-specific enoyl-CoA hydratase gene.

22. (Previously presented) The polyester synthesis-associated enzyme gene according to Claim 21 wherein said polyhydroxyalkanoate synthase gene has the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:3.

23. (Original) The polyester synthesis-associated enzyme gene according to Claim 21 wherein said (R)-specific enoyl-CoA hydratase gene has the sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:4.

24. (Previously presented) The transformant according to Claim 1, wherein said yeast belongs to the genus *Yarrowia*.

25. (Canceled)

26. (New) A transformant

wherein at least one gene expression cassette has been introduced into a yeast, and said gene expression cassette comprises the polyester synthesis-associated enzyme gene according to claim 18.

27. (New) A method of producing a polyester using the transformant according to claim 26, which comprises growing said transformant and harvesting a polyester from the resulting culture.

28. (New) A transformant wherein at least one gene expression cassette has been introduced into a yeast belonging to the genus *Candida*, and said gene expression cassette comprises a polyester synthesis-associated enzyme gene isolated from a bacterium, a promoter isolated from a yeast belonging to the genus *Candida*, and a terminator isolated from a yeast belonging to the genus *Candida*.

29. (New) The transformant according to claim 1 the cassette comprising two polyester synthesis-associated enzyme genes, wherein a first of the two genes comprises a polyhydroxyalkanoate synthase gene isolated from *Aeromonas caviae* and a second of the two genes comprises a (R)-specific enoyl-CoA hydratase gene.

30. (New) The transformant according to Claim 29 wherein the polyhydroxyalkanoate synthase gene has the sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 and the (R)-specific enoyl-CoA hydratase gene has the sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.